

Remarks

In the Office Action mailed April 5, 2005, pending claims 1-6, and 10-18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,719,952 (Rooks). The Office Action indicated that claims 7-8 were allowable and that claims 19-20 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims the subject matter of claims 7, 8, 19, and 20 and the well-reasoned Office Action. Nevertheless, Applicant have amended the claims and respectfully traverses the rejections. Applicants kindly request reconsideration of the pending claims.

By this amendment, claims 1-6, 10-11, 16, and 18 are cancelled. Independent claim 12 has been amended to include further limitations relating to the fine locator that are not disclosed or taught in any prior art of record. Claim 17 was also amended to be consistent with amended claim 12. New dependent claims 21 and 22 are also added.

Specifically, independent claim 12 recites:

12. A method for inspecting a BGA joint comprising the steps of:

finding a location of the BGA joint;

applying a plurality of locator windows over the BGA joint along the X-axis and a plurality of locator windows over the BGA joint along the Y-Axis;

locating BGA joint edges within the plurality of locator windows;

determining a located center of the BGA joint based on the location of the BGA joint edges;

measuring, in a slice image, a plurality of diameters through the BGA joint at predetermined angles; and

calculating a deviation using the measured diameters and an expected diameter.

It is submitted that the prior art of record, among other differences, does not disclose the limitation “***applying a plurality of locator windows over the BGA joint along the X-axis and a plurality of locator windows over the BGA joint along the Y-Axis***” nor the limitation of “***calculating a deviation using the measured diameters and an expected diameter***” as contained in independent claim 12. Claims 13-15, 17, and 19-21 are dependent claims that depend on base claim 12 and should likewise be allowable.

No new matter has been added and no new claim fees are due since the number of pending claims does not exceed the number previously paid for. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is also hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account Number 20-0515 for any fee deficiency, or to credit this Deposit Account Number for any overpayment.

Applicant contends that the application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R J Hampsch', with a large, sweeping initial 'R'.

Robert J. Hampsch
Reg. No. 36,155
Attorney for Applicant

Atty. Docket : 1678-US
Telephone : 617-422-2919
Fax : 617-422-2290